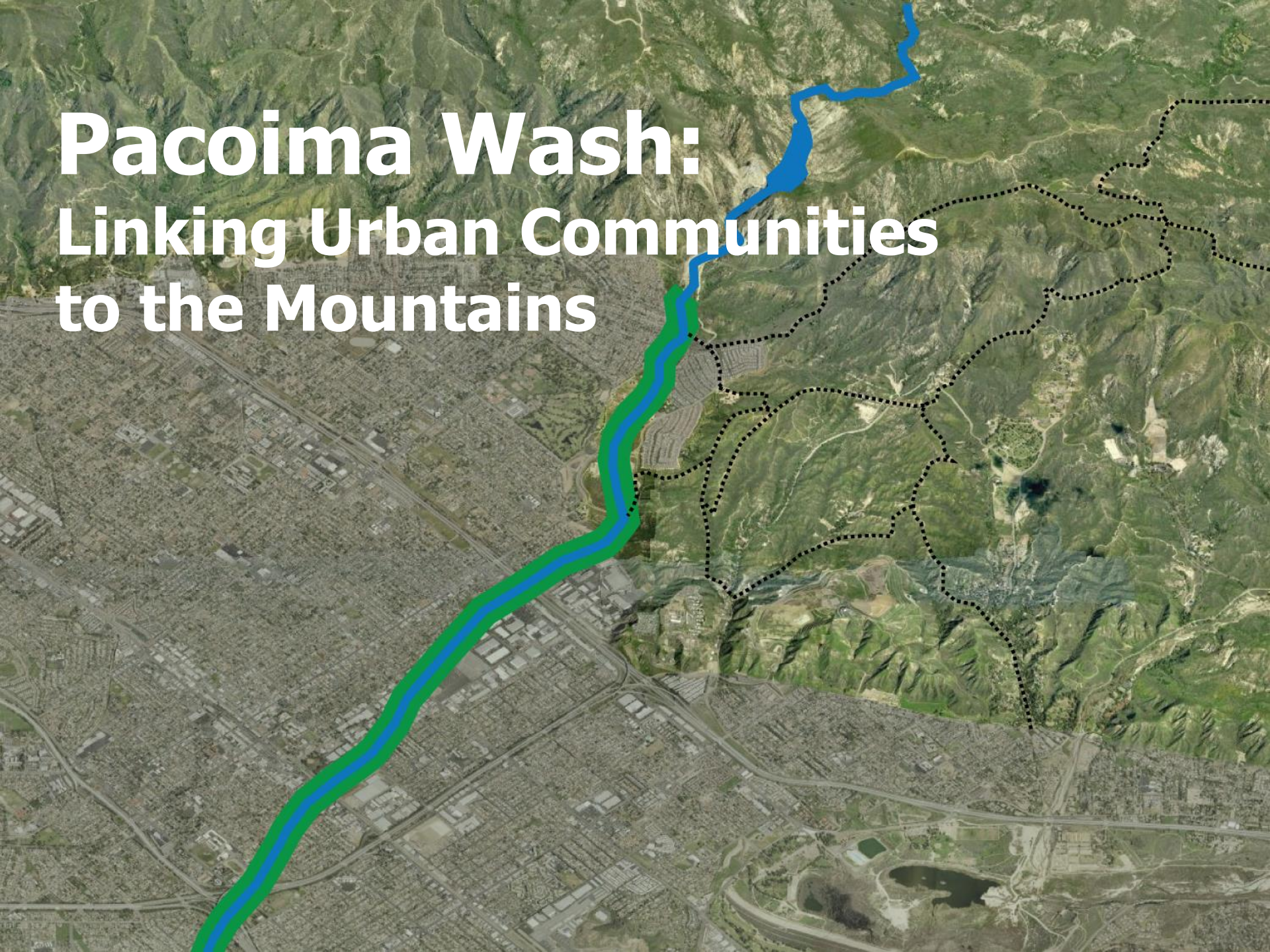


Pacoima Wash: Linking Urban Communities to the Mountains



Aligning Jurisdictions



VALERY 2005



Pacoima Wash



Sylmar Segment
City of Los Angeles
Pacoima Wash Vision Plan

San Fernando Segment
City of San Fernando
Pacoima Wash Greenway Master Plan

Pacoima Segment
City of Los Angeles
Pacoima Wash Vision Plan

Pacoima Wash

California Assemblymember, Raul Bocanegra (Pacoima)



Pacoima



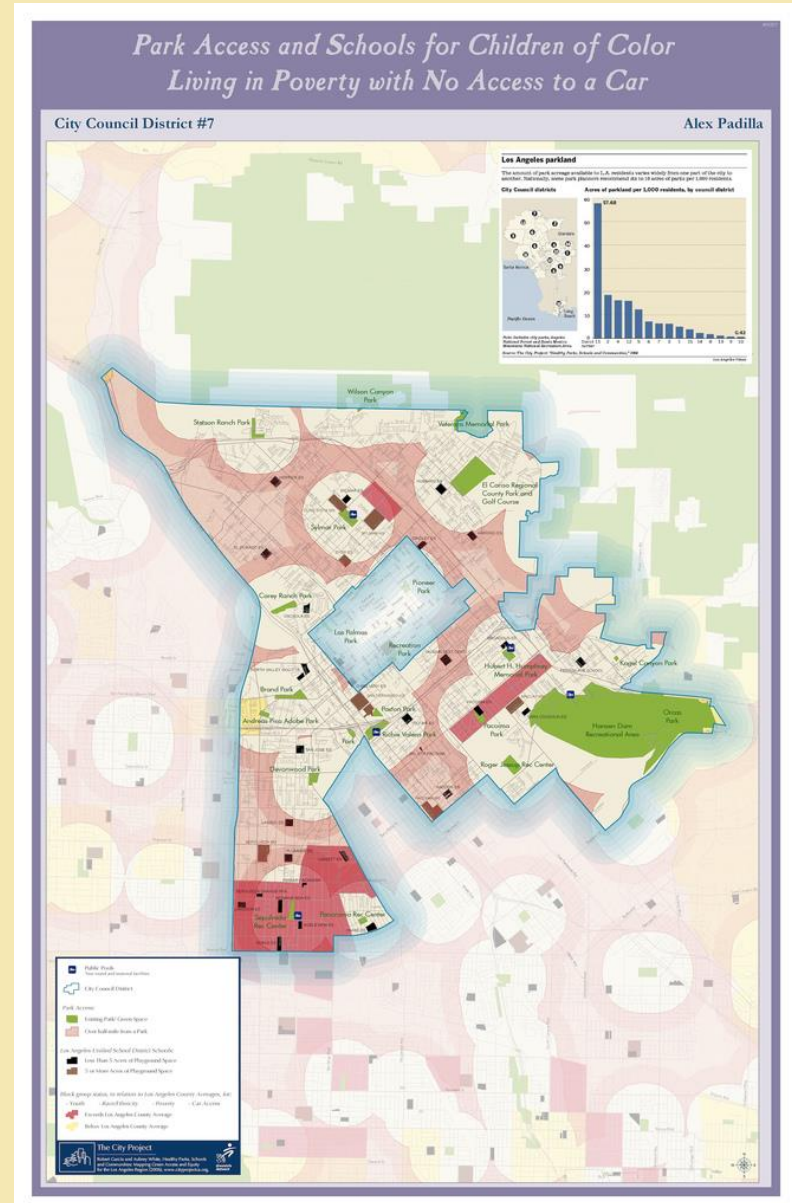
Pacoima Demographics

- Located in North East San Fernando Valley
- 100,000 Residents
- 85% Latino, 8% African American
- 21% Live in garages or rented rooms
- 19% Receive Food Stamps
- 17% Below Poverty Level



Pacoima Health/Parks

- 17% Obese
- 20% Asthma
- 6% Diabetes
- 54 Acres of Parks
- Ideal ratio of parks to population would be 600 acres of parks



Cumulative Impacts

- Many sources of pollution exist in the community

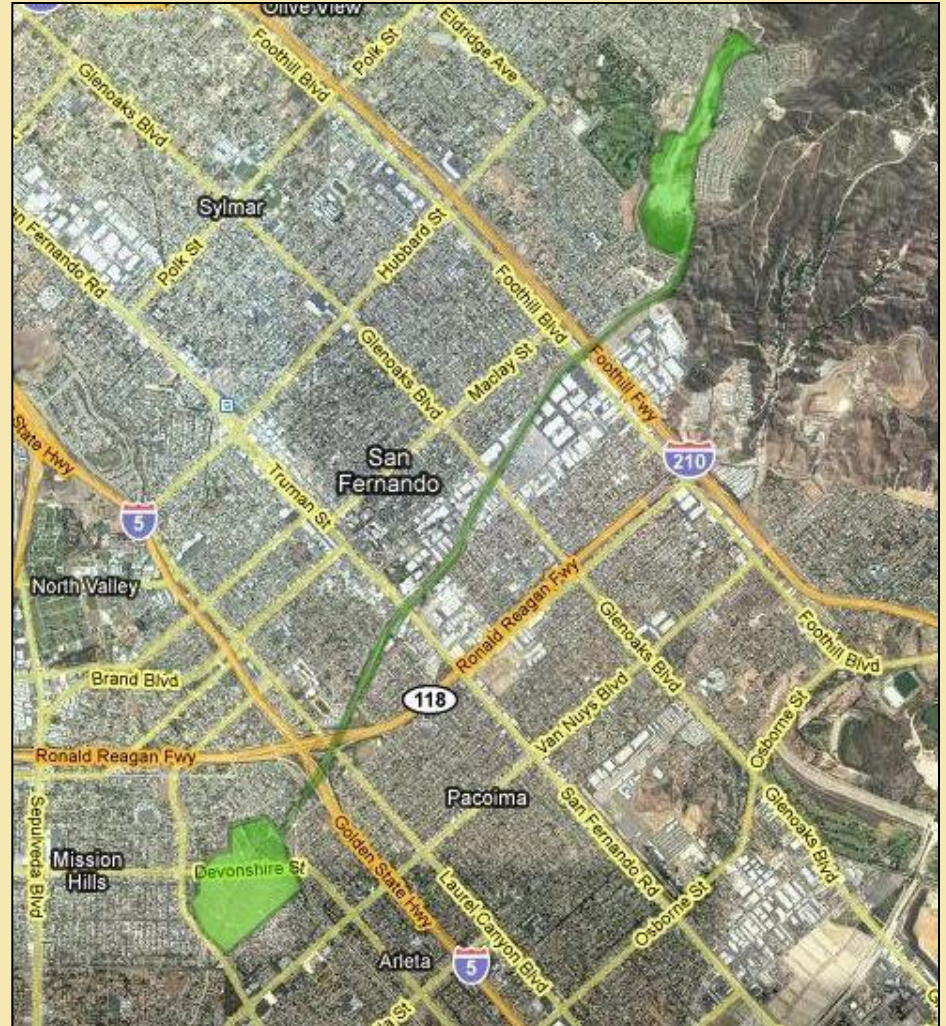


- The cumulative impact of these pollution sources creates a toxic environment.



The Project

- Develop vision plan for a 4 miles section of the Pacoima Wash stretching from the Pacoima spreading grounds to Los Angeles city line.
- Result of project will be a document, including graphics, which details recommendations for Wash.
- Recommendations for Wash will also be included in Sylmar and Pacoima Community Plans.

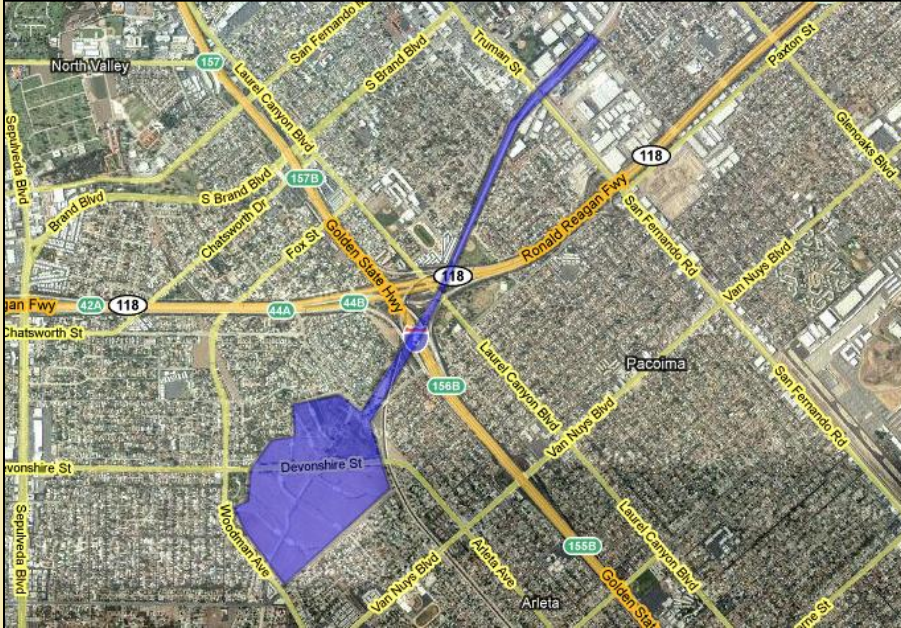


Sylmar



- Sylmar portion of the Wash is partially unchannelized.
- Provides connections to many recreational areas including: El Cariso Park, SIBL, and Angeles National Forest.
- A Greenway will connect Sylmar with Pacoima.

Pacoima



- 2 mile segment
- Running from Herrick Street to the Pacoima Spreading Grounds
- Channelized in concrete

- The Wash passes by neighborhood features including:
- Ritchie Valens Park and Community Center
- San Fernando High School
- San Fernando Aquatics Center



Connect the Neighborhood



Pacoima Beautiful



Legislation



> **DONATE**

> **TAKE ACTION**

> **EMAIL SIGN UP**

More From TransForm's Blog

We're over the moon for the EEJ alternative

Impact of Advocacy Day already visible in key bill's approval by Assembly committee

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Transportation Choices Summit ignites advocates to spark change

CARB calls for transforming California's transportation system – really!

Calls for better public transportation, affordability at first Plan Bay Area meetings

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AB 1051: Assemblyman Bocanegra calls for Sustainable Communities for All

Submitted by Ben Swift on Wed, 03/27/2013 - 12:50

Posted Date:

03/27/2013

With a few key allies, TransForm has led the development of [Sustainable Communities for All](#), a platform calling for equitable and effective use of cap-and-trade auction revenues that integrates transportation, land use and housing goals. Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra of Pacoima has now authored a bill that incorporates those goals and establishes a new state program to fund them.



The bill, AB 1051, would create the Sustainable Communities for All program with the goal of *"providing transportation and housing choices that allow lower income Californians to drive less and reduce household costs."*

The program would finance affordable housing in transit-oriented development, transit passes and other ways to target high-propensity transit riders, energy efficiency improvements for homes affordable to low- and moderate-income Californians, and other vital programs and projects.

This funding is particularly important now that the state's redevelopment funding has been eliminated and public transportation funding in California has been cut by more than \$4 billion over the past decade. Cap-and-trade revenues are projected to reach nearly \$4 billion per year by 2015, representing a critical opportunity to address the state's mobility crisis while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving public health, and reviving our economy.

We are delighted to see this bill introduced. TransForm and our allies applaud Asm. Bocanegra's leadership in helping to ensure that cap-and-trade auction revenues are used in ways that provide real transportation and housing choice.

City of San Fernando

Ron Ruiz, Public Works



City of San Fernando

- Population of 25,000, 89% Latino, located in the northeast section of Los Angeles County.
- Minimal funds and land for the development of green space
- Certain reports had listed the city as having one of the highest rates of obesity for children
- The concepts of “Healthy Cities”, “New Urbanism”, “Walkable Communities” became are now part of the dialogue for future development and city capital projects
 - Commercial areas were rezoned for denser mix-use development with housing.
 - First new park in over 30 years was constructed
 - Regional Aquatics Facility



Multipurpose Approach

- Alternative Transit Option-Creates pedestrian and bicycle accessibility to destinations in the city and Metrolink (Heavy Rail Public Transit)
- Urban Runoff/Stormwater Issues- Opportunities to construct bio swales, relationship to storm water permit
- Groundwater Levels-Permeable surfaces for water infiltration for recharging the basin
- Creates a new safe route to new High School
- Maximizes connectivity to Los Angeles Bike path linkage now under construction
- Increase the city's goal to increase green space



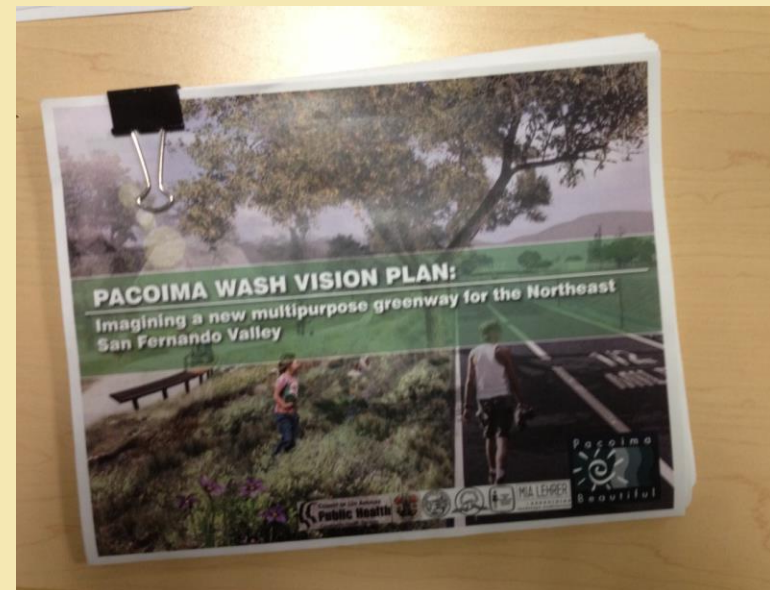
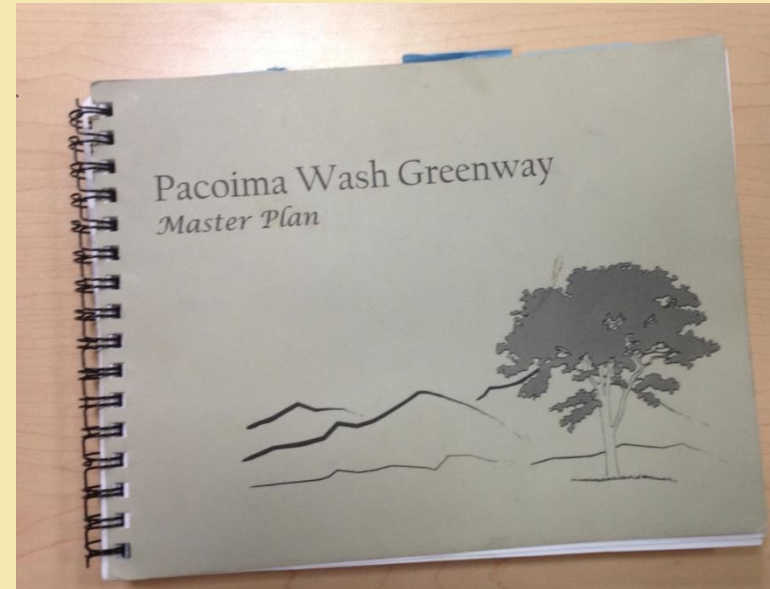
Strategies to encourage trail usage

- Over \$19M spent to build new aquatics facility and revitalize park space area at "Recreation Park". The Pacoima Wash can serve as trail to this recreation hub: pool, exercise equipment, walking path, regional bike path system.
- Safe route to new high school
- Reach out to industrial zone for employee usage



Partnerships

- In 2004, City Council led efforts to consider the use of the Pacoima Wash as a greenway.
- Cal Poly Pomona Studio 606 Project developed a Masterplan to discuss the details of the project and leverage additional support
- City was awarded Los Angeles County Metro Transportation Authority Call for Projects Grant
- MRCA provided technical support, established linkages for support from the County and other agencies, secured federal funding, constructed adjacent projects which support the project.



Challenges of Implementation

- Funding and timing
- Maintaining consensus by City Council and public; momentum, direction
- Sharing the Load--Joint effort between the City, MRCA and the County to secure Federal and State Funds
- Partnerships can address: lack of staffing, funding, direction
- Operations, Maintenance and Programming
 - Recreation and Community Services
 - Los Angeles Unified School District-Student Volunteers
 - County of Los Angeles



Working with Cities

- Always include City Councils in the project discussion
- Understand the City process to discuss projects
- Recreation, Planning and Public Works Departments play a major role in developing and constructing projects
- Now more than ever, be prepared to discuss on-going maintenance and operation costs



Physical and Environmental Context

Brian Baldauf, Project Manager MRCA





Environmental Conditions

- Pacoima Wash physically separates neighborhoods
- Water quality issues
- Impermeable surfaces, rapidly drain stormwater from communities to the oceans to prevent flooding
- Urban heat island effect, lack of shade
- Lack of biological diversity and abundance
- Prevailing winds up/down wash

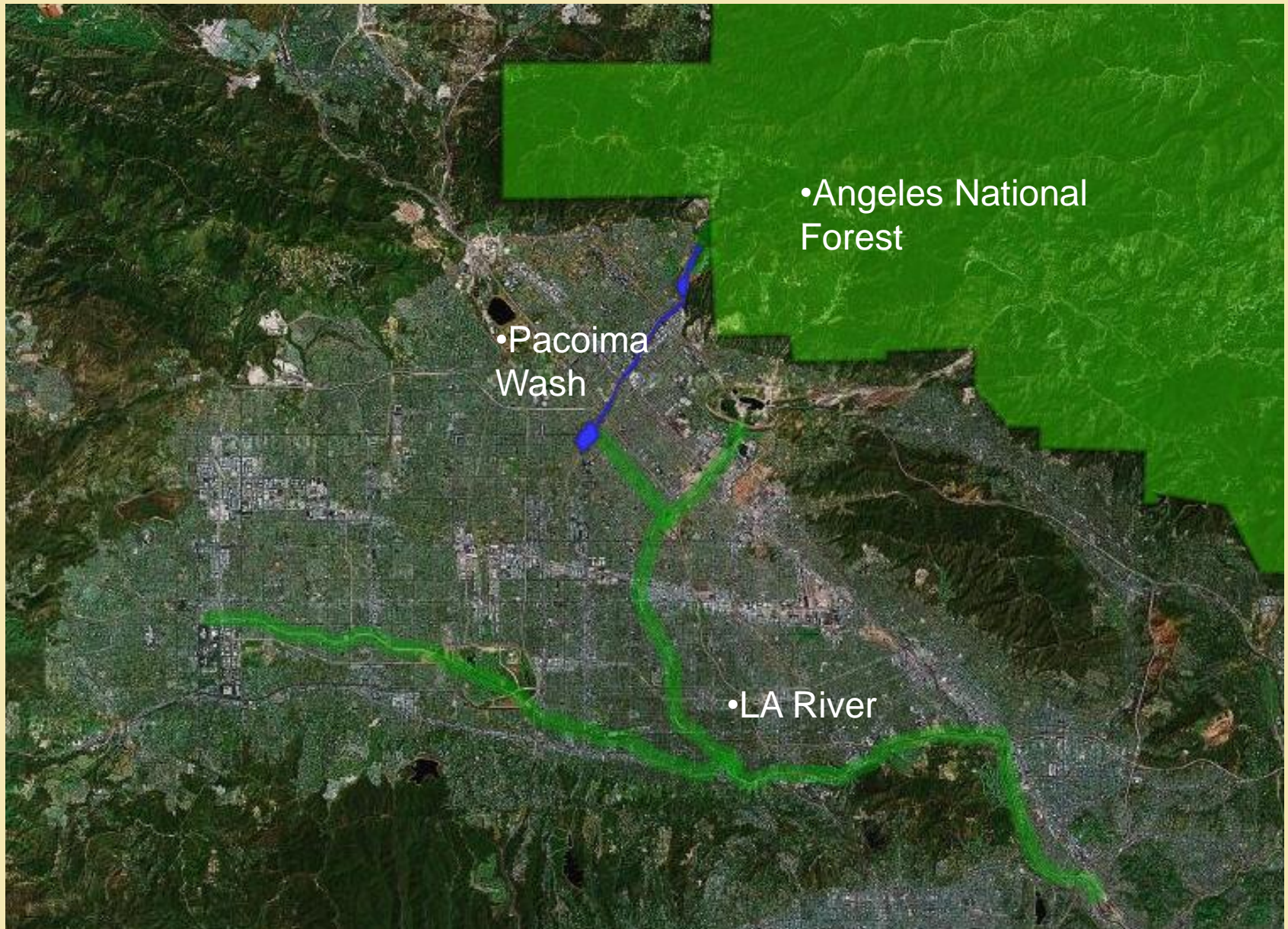


Underutilized Landscapes

- Stormwater infrastructure, utility corridors, rail lines, etc.
- Mono-functional landscape = single use, publicly held with restricted access
- Built-out communities have few other alternatives for creating open space and connectivity
- Conversion to multi-functional land use offers: improved connectivity, recreational opportunities, habitat diversity, and social capital



Create a Gateway



Opportunities to Create a Trail

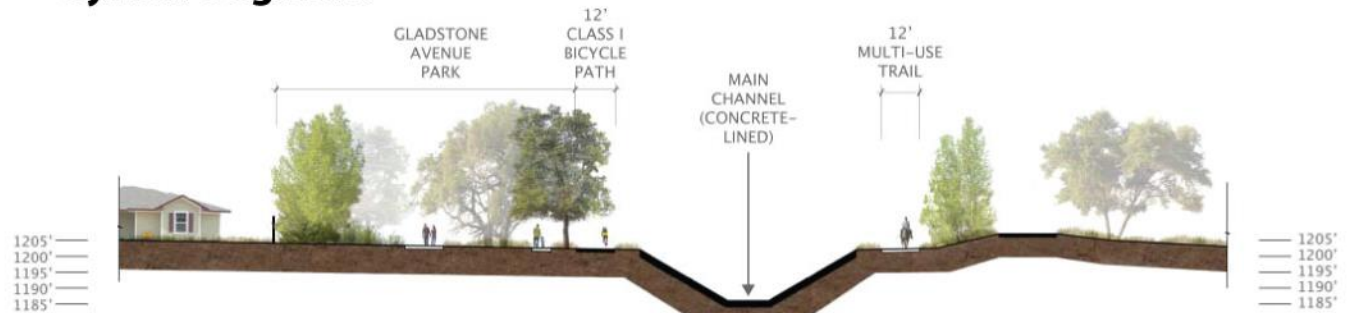
- Connectivity for both the community and wildlife
- Dense, residential setting along the Pacoima Wash, reduce VMT
- Activating neglected communities, re-orient neighborhoods to the Pacoima Wash
- Long, linear landscape, preserve the viewshed



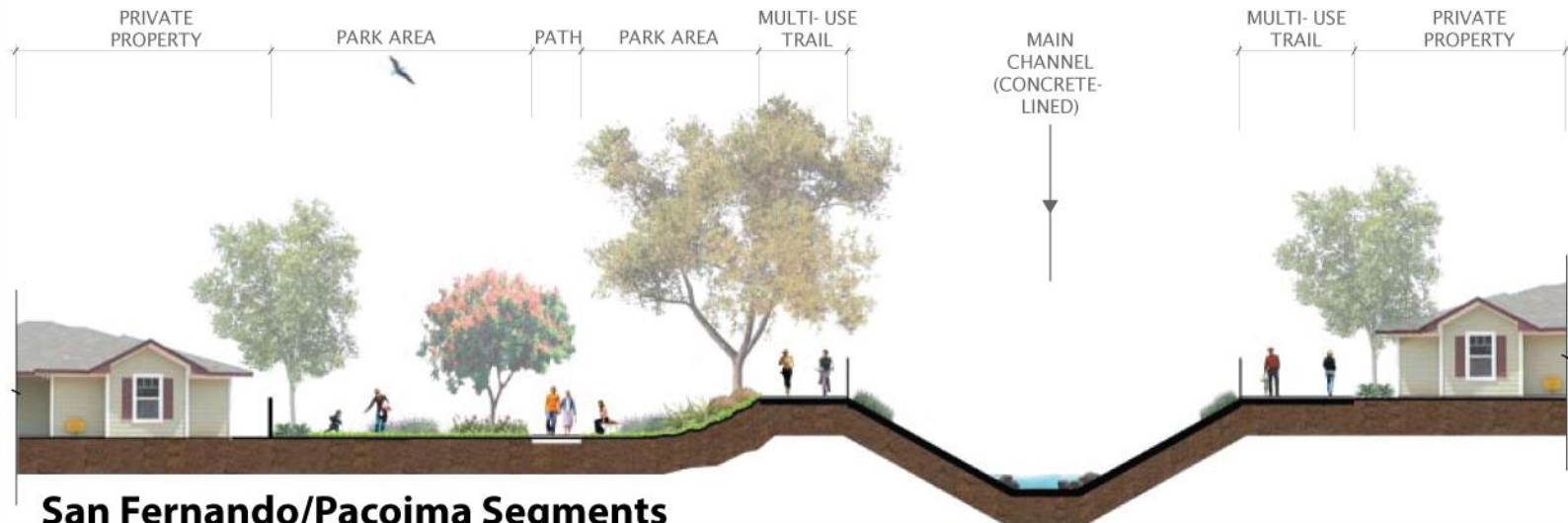
Greenway Design



Sylmar Segment



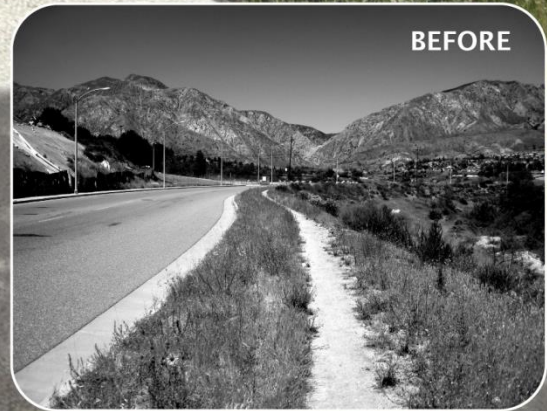
Sylmar/San Fernando Segments



Greenway Design



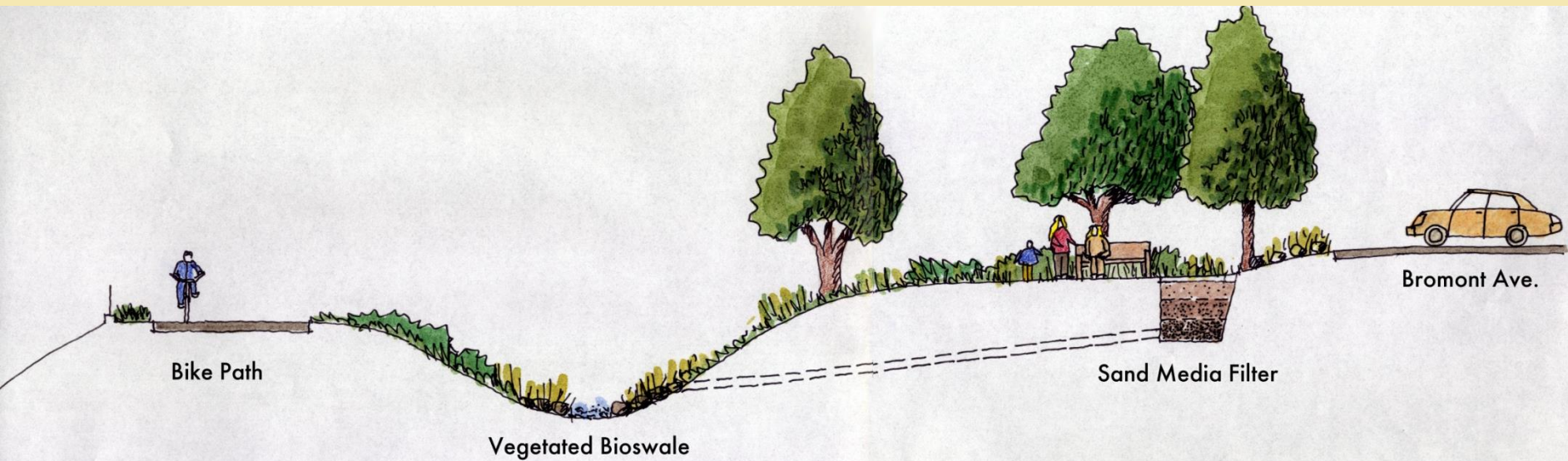
Greenway Design



Implementation



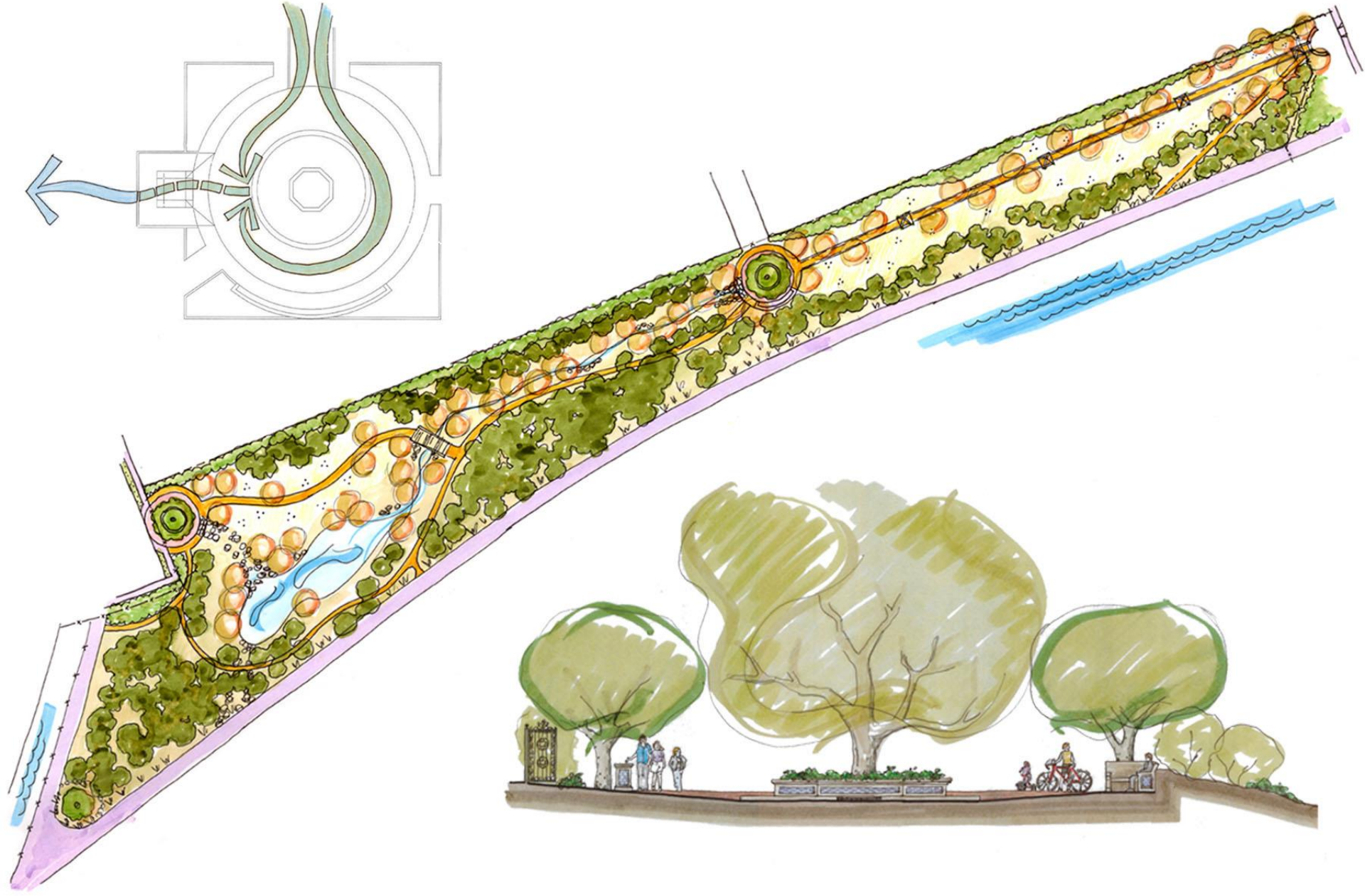
Stormwater BMPs



8th Street Park-Before



8th Street Park-Design



8th Street Park-During



8th Street Park Benefits

Public Access

Improve existing and create new access

Manage and Treat Stormwater Runoff

Treat urban runoff / pollutants

Detention and Infiltration

Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration

Increase capacity for wildlife movement

Create habitat for wildlife with native plants

Recreation

Provide open space in residential neighborhood

Health benefits

Education- Opportunities for learning by exposure to nature



El Dorado Park-Benefits

Public Access and Recreation

- New access
- Nature trail loop
- Picnic shelter
- Much needed shade

Green Infrastructure

- Bioswales
- Stormwater Arroyo

Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration

- Native trees and shrubs
- Meadow

Education

- Interpretive elements



Q&A/Discussion

- California State Assemblyman, Raul Bocanegra
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- Ron Ruiz, City of San Fernando, Public Works Director
[rruiz@ci.san-fernando.ca.us](mailto:r Ruiz@ci.san-fernando.ca.us)
- Brian Baldauf, MRCA, Project Manager
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